BULLETIN
OF THE WORLD COUNCIL
OF PEACE

Möllwaldplatz 5
VIENNA IV, AUSTRIA
Tel. 65 42 04

Vienna, 15 December 1959

Dear Friends,

We have been receiving regular information advising us of repressive measures taken against peace workers. These measures are at variance with the atmosphere of international detente now coming into being. They are being carried out by the outmoded supporters of cold war, working unceasingly to impede and reverse this relaxation of international tension. Solidarity with these active workers in the front ranks of the fight for peace is quite correctly one of the constant concerns of all National Movements. The solidarity shown to the 7 leaders of the Federal German Peace Movement is an illustration of this. The following are extracts from three letters we have received recently asking for our help. We are sure that National Committees will give them the attention necessary and plan solidarity actions.

Extract of letter from Mr.Willard Uphaus (United States), member of the World Council of Peace, President of the World Fellowship of Faiths.

"...One reason you have heard from me so infrequently is that I have had a long legal struggle with the Attorney General of New Hampshire, where our World Fellowship Center is located, who has prosecuted me under a state anti-sedition act because I have refused to give him the lists of people who came to our conferences in 1954 and 1955. In January, 1956, I was held in contempt in a New Hampshire Superior Court and sentenced to prison until "purged" of contempt, that is, until I turned over the lists.

"My case was appealed to the New Hampshire Supreme Court, where the lower court was sustained, 3 to 2. Then we appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, where we lost again, 5 to 4. With these rulings favorable to him the Attorney General may now summon me before the court where I was originally sentenced and, if I refuse to comply, have me committed to prison.

"This, indeed, has been a campaign for world peace, since the attack came first because of my having taken part in the Second World Peace Congress in Warsaw. The anti-sedition act is a result of the cold war. It would seem that with the improvement in international relations the case would be dropped, but this is not likely. Throughout I have stood on the Bill of Rights in our constitution and my reluctance as a religious person to become an informer on innocent people who came to our Center for vacations and conferences on peace and social and economic questions. .

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"I am sure that if I am imprisoned the peace forces of the world will take note and protest. Deep concern and protests are mounting in the United States. Clergymen and others in public life are expressing themselves."

Extract of a letter from the Dolisia Peace Committee (French controlled Congo).

"...You will thus understand that the colonialists feel their end is coming. They are trying to make it as easy as possible for themselves and fear losing the military bases they have established. They are striving to set up puppet governments everywhere, and continue, to oppress the peoples through these puppet governments. Here they are causing racial rivalries, there the discontentment is so great that it is leading to violent incidents.

"The Dolisia Peace Committee has lost the majority of its active workers since its President was imprisoned for no valid reason. Today, with the dictatorship set up by Youlou Fulbert, our Movement is meeting with the most terrible difficulties. Many people have been deported often to areas where it is hardly possible to exist. We think that the International Institute for Peace can inform the World Council of Peace of this in order to have a protest made against the mass deportations of Matsouanists and other Congo citizens, merely for wanting freedom and refusing to belong to a political party whose aim is to re-establish colonialism with all its consequences.

"We hope that the World Council of Peace, in the spirit of the Bandung Conference, can ask other National Peace Committees to send petitions and protest letters to the President of the Republic of Congo calling for the release of the thousands of men and women deported to concentration camps..."

Extract from Appeal by the Lebanese National Committee to set up an international committee for Farajallah Helou.

(Mr. Antoine Tabet, Member of the Presidential Committee of the World Council of Peace, is a member of this National Committee.)

"...The Lebanese National Committee for the liberation of Farajallah Helou greets you heartily, and highly esteems your generosity for responding to its appeal, for raising highly your strong voice and for protesting against the arbitrary arrest of the great Lebanese citizen in Damascus and against the tortures inflicted upon him out of revenge and dangering his life, that which contradicts the most elementary regulations of law and the human traditions.

"We thought that the investigation authorities in the AUR who arrested Farajallah Helou on the 25th of June 1959, would listen to your and our protest and that your efforts would end in liberating our great citizen or in transferring him to an open court before an honest juridical body.

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"The behaviour of the authorities who arrested Farajallah Helou is at least strange. It reveals a total contempt against the spirit of fraternity, of humanity, of moral values and of the regulations of law. This is why we think that it is our duty to strengthen the campaign in all the domains to save our great citizen. We again call on you to ask for a greater support. We wish that with your efforts an International Committee be composed of jurists, scientists, writers and other personalities who heartily respect the rights of man, having as its slogan: 'Freedom for Farajallah Helou', faithful son of Lebanon and great progressive Lebanese and Arab leader.

"We are confident that our call will reach deep into your conscience, and that the influence and moral force of the democratic public opinion in all the world will assure respect for justice and will give back to Lebanon one of its best sons, a great intellectual leader, a devout citizen and a valiant patriot.

"We would like you to send us before the 5th of January 1960 the names of personalities whom we can consider members of the International Committee....

"Please address all communications to:

Maitre Edmond Aoun - Avocat
Place Riad Solh - Immeuble Sehnaoui
Beyrouth, Liban.

The Lebanese National Committee
for the Defense of Farajallah
Helou."

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The World Federation of Democratic Youth informs us that another political trial commenced in Dortmund, German Federal Republic, at the end of November. The accused are three members of the former Federal Republic Preparatory Committee for the World Youth Festival, set up to prepare the Bucharest and Warsaw Festivals. The three young people in the dock are Gunther Hilmann of Munich, former secretary of the Committee, Klaus Steffen of Hagen and Walter Fischer of Witten

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Would you please let us know of any actions you decide upon.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Editor
Bulletin of the
WCP

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